



### **March of Dimes Mission:**

Our mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant

mortality. We carry out this mission through research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies' lives. March of Dimes researchers, volunteers, educators, outreach workers and advocates work together to give all babies a fighting chance against the threats to their health: prematurity, birth defects, low birth weight.

### **Did You Know?**

- March of Dimes was founded by **Franklin D. Roosevelt**.
- **Half a million** babies are born premature each year.
- Preterm birth is one occurring **before the 37<sup>th</sup>** week of pregnancy.
- Premature birth is the **#1 killer** of newborns & can lead to lifelong disabilities.
- **Birth defects** are the leading cause of death in the first year of life.
- Since 1981, premature birth has **increased 31 percent**.
- Health care costs to employers for a premature baby are **15 times higher** than for a healthy, full-term baby.
- The March of Dimes funded the development of America's Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) beginning in the 1970's.
- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 is Prematurity Awareness Day
- In 2006, **FCCLA was the #3** youth club fundraiser for the March of Dimes!



### **What will YOU do for the Pink and Blue?**

Contact us:

[marchofdimes.com/youth](http://marchofdimes.com/youth)  
[TeamYouth@marchofdimes.com](mailto:TeamYouth@marchofdimes.com)



**Student Body** is a national FCCLA peer education program that helps young people learn to eat right, be fit, and make healthy choices. Its goals are to:

- Help young people make informed, responsible decisions about their health
- Provide youth opportunities to teach others and develop healthy lifestyles, as well as communication and leadership skills

### **Promote Healthy Choices with the March of Dimes New Teen 2 Teen Series!**

- Plan a health education workshop or ask to speak in your health class, and use the new Teen-2-Teen series to talk to peers and middle school students about healthy lifestyles. In the series, teens speak out candidly on topics that are often on their minds today – sex, smoking, alcohol, drugs, stress and peer pressure. Here they talk about what it means to be a March of Dimes volunteer and the benefits



of healthy attitudes and behaviors for teens now and for their babies in the future. View the segments, download the learning objectives, and find out how to order the DVD or VHS at [marchofdimes.com/youth](http://marchofdimes.com/youth).

**MT FCCLA has selected March of Dimes as our State Outreach Project for this year. More information will be provided at District Meetings this fall. Please submit your chapter donations (in the form of a check to MOD) to your District State Officer Feb. 11-15, 2008.**